WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Subas> 1. Apparatus for converting analog video data into digital form, the apparatus comprising:

an analog video cassette player for producing analog video output;

an analog to digital converter for converting said analog video output into digital data;

at least one recorder employing a digital storage medium for storing said digital data, wherein said cassette player, said at least one converter and said storage medium are disposed within a single container.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a video port for receiving analog video information from an external source.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the video cassette player employs a VHS format.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the digital storage medium is one of a CD-R or a CD-RW.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the digital storage medium is a recordable DVD.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the digital storage medium is selectable by the user.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a key frame marker for marking abrupt changes in video image sequences, thereby enabling a user to readily locate a beginning and an end of a particular video sequence.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a key frame marker for marking positions in a sequence of said digital data at selectable time intervals.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the video cassette player employs the 8 mm format.

10. A method for preserving analog video data in digital form, the method comprising the steps of:

producing analog video output from an analog video tape;

converting said analog video output into digital video data;

storing said digital video data in a non-volatile digital storage medium thereby protecting said data against degradation over time; and

providing a single container to perform the steps of producing, converting, and storing.

11. The method of claim 10 comprising the further step of:

determining a required digital storage format prior to said step of converting based upon detection of a format of an inserted storage medium.

12. The method of claim 10 comprising the further step of:

inserting at least one marker in said digital video data to identify abrupt changes in video scenery, thereby enabling a user to readily identify particular video sequences during playing of said digital video data.

13. The method of claim 10, comprising the further step of:

inserting at least one marker in said digital video data at selectable time intervals, thereby enabling a user to readily move to selected chronological points in a video sequence during playing of said digital video data.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the digital storage medium is one of CD-R or CD-RW.

15. The method of claim 10, wherein the digital storage medium is a recordable DVD.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein the digital storage medium is digital tape.

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17. The method of claim 10, wherein the analog video tape is in VHS format.

18. The method of claim 10, wherein the analog video tape is in 8 mm format.

19. Apparatus for preserving analog video data in digital form, the apparatus comprising:

a video cassette player for producing analog video output;

an analog to digital converter for converting said analog video output into digital data thereby protecting said data against degradation of over time; and

one of a CD recorder and a DVD recorder for storing said digital data, wherein said video cassette player, said analog to digital converter, and said digital storage medium are disposed within a single container.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising:

a key frame marker for inserting index markers in said digital data marking abrupt changes in video image sequences, and alternatively, at selectable time intervals.